

In this attitude, of course, he was in agreement with the majority of the Labour Party, as well as with the majority of the nation Mrs Webb, one gathers, moved towards a definitely Pacifist position earlier than he did, on reconstruction, as on the terms of an international settlement, they were both entirely with the Pacifists, while disagreeing with them both as to the action that could have been taken by a British Government in August 1914, and on the possibility of what was then called "peace without victory"

In some respects, the circumstances and grouping of persons about them, resembled what they had been at the time of the Boer War Once again, the I L P was ranged against the war, while the Fabian attitude in the meantime was one of acceptance of the inevitable Once again, Webb and MacDonald were on different sides They were together, however, in another effort, and one that absorbed a good deal of the time and energy of both, and thereby brought them to a respectful mutual understanding, during the dread years of the war's course If, at the end of them, the Labour movement in Great Britain, in this respect most happily unlike those of France, Germany or Italy, emerged stronger, more coherent in policy and purpose than it was at the beginning, and if, during their passage, it was able to do certain valuable practical work, the measure of recognition, under both heads, due to Sidney Webb is a very large one He, in fact, must be seen, during these years, as largely occupied in the effort—and the successful effort—to

keep the party so hard at work on concrete,
practical
matters that even the deep fissure of
disagreement on the war
itself never widened to become a lasting split His
work, here,
was inevitably anonymous, and he desired to
have it so,
but, on this vital point he counts with Ramsay
MacDonald
and Arthur Henderson among the architects
of unity

In the last days of July 1914, when the
"stumble into
war" was still a dark menace only, which men
of good will